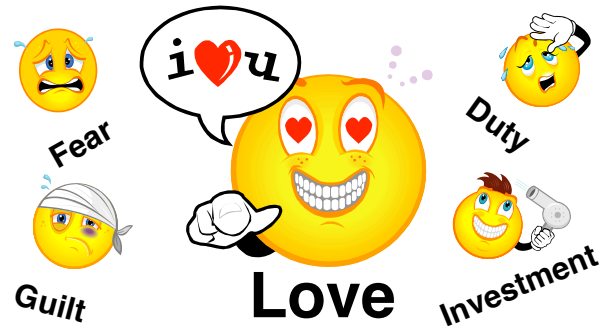


Motivation assessment

1. When was the last time you made a significant **sacrifice** in serving others?
2. To what extent is your service motivated by **duty, guilt, or need for acceptance?**
3. How do you **respond** when you are treated like a servant?
4. Do you **keep score** with how much you give (compared to others) and how much you get in return?

2 Corinthians 12:14-18 What motivates Christian service?



2 Corinthians 12

“14 Here for this third time I am ready to come to you, and I will not be a burden to you; for I do not seek what is yours, but you; for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children. 15 And **I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls.** If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less? 16 But be that as it may, I did not burden you myself; nevertheless, crafty fellow that I am, I took you in by deceit. 17 Certainly I have not taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I? 18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit and walk in the same steps?”

Observations

1. **Paul is willing to lay aside his personal rights in a relationship.**

“17 Certainly I have not **taken advantage** of you through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I?”

1 Corinthians 9

“13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share with the altar? 14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel. 15 But I have used none of these things.”

Observations

2. **A focus in Paul’s ministry is the spiritual well-being of other Christians.**

“14 . . . for children are not responsible to save up for their parents, but parents for their children 15 And I will most gladly spend and be expended **for your souls.**”

Galatians 6:10

“let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

Love is moving toward another with deep interest and a commitment to helping them realize and reach the true desire of their heart.

if “The first mark of a true and living church is love, the second is suffering.

The one is naturally consequent on the other.

A willingness to suffer proves the genuineness of love.”

Observations

3. Paul is willing to sacrifice **himself**.

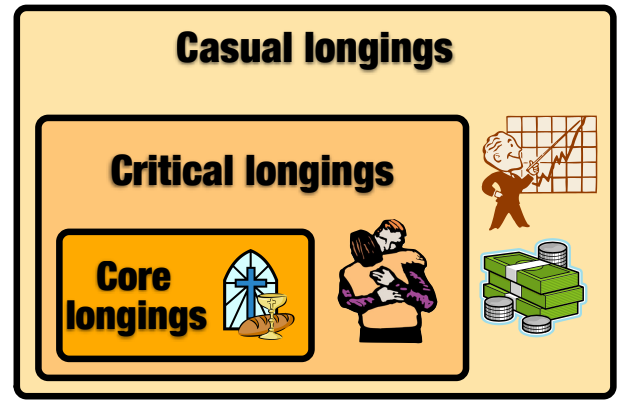
“15 And I will most gladly spend and **be expended** (be completely spent out) **for your souls.**”

4. Paul is careful to maintain **consistency** in his service.

“17 Certainly I have not taken advantage of you through any of those whom I have sent to you, have I? 18 I urged Titus to go, and sent the brother with him. Titus did not take any advantage of you, did he? Did we not conduct ourselves in the same spirit and walk in the same steps?”

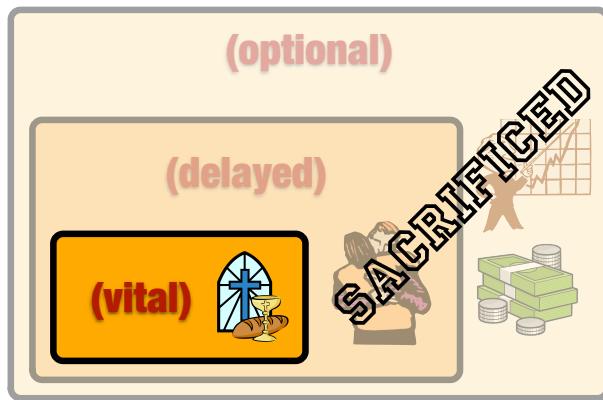
Three great threats to selfless service.

1. Unmet core needs in our own lives.



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Three great threats to selfless service.

1. Unmet core needs in our own lives.
2. Worldly pressure to consume rather than save and serve.
3. Church culture that expects very little from its members.

How can our churches help?

1. Provide leadership **models** of selfless service.
2. Present **sermons** that stress both the experience and expression of God's grace.
3. **Encourage** and **support** those who make loving sacrifices.
4. Offer many and diverse **opportunities** for Christians to serve.
5. **Expect** Christians to serve.

Selfish-service rehabilitation

1. Start with the assumption that your **natural impulse** is self-centered.
2. Put yourself in **contexts** that will give you opportunities to love those who can't reciprocate.
3. Ask not what others can do for you but rather what you can do **for them**.
4. View **your desire to be loved** by others as a call to personal intimacy with God.
5. Recognize that love is a spiritual impulse that involves a **commitment** as much as a **feeling**.